

# Nation

## Best of

# JAMES BAY



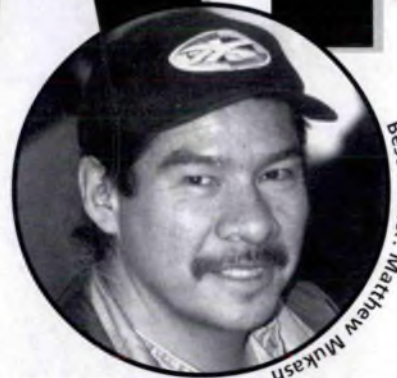
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## INVASION OF THE NORTH

*This editorial appeared in The Eastern Door of Kahnawake, Sept. 12, 1997.*

The plan to move some 2,000 Hydro-Quebec employees and their families to Radisson, deep in the heart of Cree territory, can only be seen as another invasion by non-Natives of Native lands.

In the past, when settlers migrated to our lands this was seen as a natural evolution, a divine right given to them by God to Christianize and colonize the lands of the Heathens.

It did not matter to the settlers that Native Peoples already there also had divine rights given to them by their own God. But this was of little importance to the new settlers. We were ignored, relegated to small areas of land or eradicated, whichever suited the settlers best.

As always, the settlers wanted to take from us anything that was of value. Generally that was the land. In some cases it was our resources like gold, oil or water power. Moving more Quebecers north amounts to yet another invasion of Native territory. Its purpose is to generate wealth for Quebec at the expense of the Cree People.

Wealth can be measured in many ways. Quebec can be expected to assert more economic sway in the North because of the increased population. New companies will sprout up to service the new population, in particular the need for recreation. There will be greater demands on the lakes and streams in the area. And who will benefit? Not the Cree but the Quebec entrepreneur.

Hydro-Quebec itself admits that it will save \$80 million in moving its employees to Radisson instead of flying them in and out. That \$80 million is more acquired wealth by Hydro-Quebec. Nothing has

changed since the days of the wagon trains.

Just as ominous is the suspicion that the migration is a plot to flood the north with Yes voters in time for the next referendum. Of course Quebec denies this accusation and suggests that the Cree are paranoid.

Separatists are experts at paranoia. They accuse anyone who considers the negative cost of separation as a hate monger and blackmailer. But the Crees are not naive. They have long experience with non-Natives and they are justifiably suspicious of Quebec's intentions.

There are no alternatives or incentives for the Crees to take over some of those jobs at Hydro-Quebec. The government has not offered training programs or joint-venture initiatives to share the work and spin-offs from the hydro-electric stations. Quebec has just decided to move in, keep the jobs and stay permanently. Coexistence and sharing are not part of the Quebec plan. This is what has the Crees suspicious.

They know that the government of Quebec will only have one more chance at a referendum on separation and that the North is their Achilles's Heel. The Crees have garnered much support both domestically and internationally for their own right to determine if they want to separate or stay with Canada. The Crees have a strong argument that they are the majority population in the North, are a separate and distinct culture from Quebec, and have their own right of self-determination. Quebec has to find a way to undermine the Crees.

It is just too much of a coincidence of 2,000 Quebecers in the James Bay area to be anything but a deliberate attempt to invade Cree territory and to assimilate the North into a separate Quebec.

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### COVER PHOTO:

Best of James Bay 97 Winners  
(See Page 10 for the details)

Cover design: Katerina Cizek



WILL NICHOLLS

**Bentley Mianscum, voted 2nd Funniest Cree In Best of James Bay poll (see page 10), with not very funny Cree beside him.**

We receive all kinds of letters here at *The Nation*. We get letters from angry readers, angry non-readers even, who have taken offense to certain stories. We also get letters filled with love thanking us for... well, just for being. Until now we haven't had a single missive seeking our advice. This one came in written on a classified order form, short and sweet. It reads:

*Dear Nation: I have been in a dilemma for quite a while now. How do I go about asking a guy out without being too intimidating? Anxiously waiting your reply. Signed A.*

Dear A. This is the nineties baby. Just go up to that hunk and give him one of your wettest, sloppiest and therefore most passionate kisses. Once he recovers tell him this, "Take me, I'm yours. Let's go away together and leave this place." Chances are he feels the same way about you and will respond favorably. Then you can run away to the closest, seediest motel and have your fun.

If the advice above doesn't suit your style, someone in the office advises, "Go up to him, grab him by the collar and throw him on the bed and if you're not too heavy you can proceed to..." We'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Still another of my colleagues advises, "Forget about him. He's probably an asshole anyway. If you marry him he'll beat you up

and leave with all your lifesavings to be with another. He'll come back weeks later asking to be let back in to your heart. But don't believe him. He'll do the same thing after he's had his way with you. Forget about him. Men are pigs. They're all the same."

There's one man who's not a pig, though. He's a friend of mine and his name is Erland. I can help you get in touch with him if you want. He'll be very happy making you happy. Call us.

Will's advice to you: Invite him to dinner. If you're afraid of asking him alone, do it when there are other friends who are also couples and you are the only available woman. He should get the hint. If that doesn't work, don't forget, candy's dandy but liquor's quicker.

Seriously my friend, you can never be too intimidating when asking a guy out. Unless the guy has some deep-seated problem with girls. Believe me, guys want to be asked out by girls. It's a huge ego boost for them. They'll brag to their friends about it later. They'll even tell your grandchildren about it. Men dream about having girls ask them out so go for it. Grab the bull by the horns. Who knows, he might even say yes and will want to have your children.

by Ndiamon

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**HQ President Andre Caille (r.) and Board Chairman Jacques Menard.**

## HYDRO BRASS GETS EARFUL IN CHISASIBI

On Sept. 11, in a historic visit, the top management of Hydro-Quebec visited Chisasibi and addressed the many problems caused by their hydro projects.

Everyone listened politely for over two hours, as five top Hydro executives—including the president, chair of the board and finance director—spoke of a “renewed relationship” with Crees.

However, when it came time for the people to ask questions, Hydro's big guns only lasted about 20 minutes before beating a quick exit by helicopter to Radisson.

“Don’t leave us cold,” shouted one young man as Hydro-Quebec President Andre Caille tried to close what was starting to become a heated meeting.

“You can sleep over in our hotel,” shouted another. “We’ll drive you to Radisson. Stay and listen to us.”

The president and other executives hesitated for a moment. “I will be back,” said Caille to the crowd, finally making up his mind to leave. “I don’t know when, but I promise you I will be back.”

Most of the “historic” meeting consisted of Chief Charles Bobbish reading out the community’s complaints—polluted drinking water, safety of the dams, mercury contamination, re-naming of the “islands” in Caniapiscau, environmental and social effects of the project, lack of access for hunters to the James Bay coast—to name a few.

Caille promised that Cree concerns would be dealt with “directly and quickly,” unlike in the past.

“I think we have to renew the way we relate with your communities,” said Caille. “We have to have direct dialogue, so that we can become partners.”

He did not provide any concrete solutions at the meet-

ing, however. According to Caille, the community’s concerns will be dealt with by a new task force, where Hydro-Quebec and Crees would be represented.

“They’re not saying anything,” said one restless Cree in the audience, to murmurs of approval. “Why are we even sitting here?”

During question period, several Band Councillors tried to get Hydro-Quebec to understand how serious the water-intake problem in the river had become, so serious it might deprive the town of water this winter. At one point, one resident walked up to the shocked executives and started yelling at them about the polluted water.

Charles Bobbish also tried to explain the community’s anger at paying hydro bills.

“We have felt the most impact because the dams are right in our back yard,” said Bobbish. “That’s why people here are so upset about it (hydro bills). Try to understand. Because you are getting everything from our river. We think we should not be asked to pay for electricity.”

A big round of applause erupted. Bobbish went on, “You’re making too much money from our community and our river and not considering the impacts on us.”

The audience applauded again. At that point, Hydro-Quebec began to wrap up the meeting. But many questions remained and one participant asked, “Do you think we could speak with anyone higher up, since you don’t seem to be able to answer any of our questions?” When Caille didn’t know how to respond, she asked: “Are you here just because you want another Phase 3 or 4 on our land? Is that why you have come?”

Caille answered with one last promise:

“We will deal with your concerns, whether or not there are any new projects.”

by Catherine Bainbridge

## NEW PROJECTS IN THE WORKS IN JAMES BAY: HQ

It’s now out in the open.

During a meeting in Chisasibi, Hydro-Quebec’s top executives admitted publicly that the utility wants to build new projects in Iiyuuschii and offer Crees some form of “partnership” and “profit-sharing” in these new developments.

“We are here to renew our relationship with Crees,” said Hydro-Quebec President Andre Caille. “We are here to deal directly with our partners, the people who have authority.”

Chairman of the Board Jacques Menard was candid about Hydro-Quebec’s future plans for new hydro-electric projects. However, he didn’t come right out and say where they would be located.

“Crees are an important ally and partner,” said Menard. “We are convinced we have every interest to work together as we move forward.”

Menard said the utility’s growth has stagnated over the last several years.

“We think it is our responsibility to resume this growth,” said Menard.

“We’ve decided to go swiftly—to be as quick as we can be (building new projects).”

Although *The Nation* broke the news of behind-closed-door plans of a new project involving the Whapmagoostui and Rupert’s rivers, Hydro-Quebec has never confirmed anything official.

However, during coffee break, the executives were asked directly if they were planning to build on Cree land.

“Yes,” said Director of Finance Yves Fillion, adding that official plans would be announced later this fall. “But we can’t do it without the people here,” said Fillion. “We don’t want the fight that happened with the last project.”

He said the Crees and Hydro-Quebec could be partners and make money together through profit-sharing on the new developments. “There could be many interesting opportunities for the people,” Fillion enthused.

When asked if Hydro-Quebec would try and force Crees to accept a new hydro-electric project, even if the people don’t want it, Fillion responded, “If they (Crees) don’t want it, we will go elsewhere.”

-by Catherine Bainbridge

## Not out in the cold

Letter to *The Nation*.

Reference the article, "Sawmill supporter left out in the cold [July 18]."

When you refer to the fact that I refused "to speak about Cooper's situation and referred us to Chief Kitchen," I wish to let you know that, during the past three years I have helped Chief Kitchen and Mr. Peter Gull to achieve their 10-year-old dream of a sawmill project, I have never been asked or have I asked myself to be the official spokesman for the Waswanipi project. During these past three years, I have received many phone calls from journalists like you, and each time I have referred them to either the Chief, either Mr. Gull. I was not going to act any different with you when you phoned. Plus the fact that, during the past 40 years or so of a very busy career, I have learned to be very, very cautious with journalists, this remark being done without any offense to you.

However, after reading through your article, I realized that you give the impression that anyone may call you, unload false allegations in your vocal box or else, and that the efforts you will make to verify your

sources are very minimal before publishing: "Kitchen (the Chief) did not get back to us." I find such attitude very unprofessional. One gets the impression that you prefer to publish anything against people rather than use the most elementary precautions before doing so. If "Kitchen" as you mentioned in your article (I find this reference to the Chief quite disrespectful; after all, Mr. Kitchen is the Chief of the Waswanipi Cree First Nation, democratically elected and as such he deserves respect) did not call back, I believe that any professional journalist would have deployed more serious and sustained efforts at verifying his sources before writing such an innuendous article, solely written to bring discredit.

As far as helping Cree entrepreneurship that should develop around the sawmill operation, such as trucking for example, the Chief might mention to you the special business plan that was developed for the Cooper Group (Allan Cooper & Sons), in order to try and help this group to financially acquire trucking equipment for the transport of lumber and chips. Now it is up to them to get organized, such as presenting the necessary credentials in order to

acquire equipment. Also the training plans which are being developed by Mr. Gull to help other local people who might wish to own trucking equipment, etc. You see, this sawmill project was very seriously planned, installed and started, and always based on two principal objectives: profitability and Cree employment.

Finally, I am happy that you gave me the opportunity to have this short written conversation with you. If it might have helped you to understand better how a sawmill functions, good. If not, I am sure that Chief Kitchen would be happy to invite you to visit the sawmill so that you might realize that nothing or nobody is or was left out in the cold..., unless for a reason.

**Roger A. Lachance, F. Eng.**

*Editor's Note: The article was supported by documentation provided to us by Allan Cooper Sr. We offered both Mr. Lachance and Chief Kitchen a chance to comment but they did not do so. As for using the chief's title, the standard newspaper policy is to refer to a person's title, such as "chief," the first time they are mentioned in an article, and then to refer to them by their last name only.*

more letters, p. 19



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## QUEBEC RETREATS ON RENAMING 101 ISLANDS

The Quebec government admits it made a mistake and is retreating from its plan to give new names to 101 islands in the Caniapiscau reservoir.

Quebec's Toponymy Commission, which cooked up the idea, says it will re-examine the plan after learning that the former mountains already have Cree names.

"We were convinced that these mountains don't have names," said Christian Bonnelly, a geographer at the commission, who added that he was "surprised" to learn about the Cree names.

"If the Crees have some names in their inventories, the commission will reconsider the file in light of this new information. It could lead to certain changes. We could replace some of the names."

The retreat is a setback for the commission's plan to commemorate the French Language Charter, better known as Bill 101, by naming 101 islands after works by 102 Quebec authors. The new names were given to the islands at two sessions of the commission during the summer.

"They didn't ask us," said Chief Charles Bobbish of Chisasibi. "They unilaterally decided. The Cree people were hurt when they put in the (hydro-electric) projects. I don't think they should hurt them more by renaming the islands."

Bonnelly said the commission believed the islands didn't have names because none were found in a survey of Cree place-names done for the commission in the late 1970s, during construction of the hydro-projects.

But linguist Marguerite MacKenzie, who did the survey, said her study was limited by time and resources, and shouldn't have been considered complete.

"There is no way that was an exhaustive study. There was

never any idea that the list of names I did was exhaustive," she said.

MacKenzie, a professor at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., said she used a large-scale map and surveyed only the five Cree communities on the James Bay coast. No inventories were done in the four inland Cree communities where trappers have closer links to the Caniapiscau area.

"I think it's an incredible insult to the Crees, a bold-faced insult," she said. "I'm amazed they're still doing that in this day and age. This seems to be an about-face, a return to an earlier colonial situation. They're trying to create instant history."

Bonnelly insisted that the Toponymy Commission's philosophy has evolved since the days when it would go in and arbitrarily dream up new names for places in native areas. In the 1970s, the commission launched a sweeping effort to return to the use of native names, he said, and Quebec wound up with close to 10,000 Native place-names on its official map.

But Bonnelly confirmed that the commission never contacted the Crees to double-check on whether the Caniapiscau islands already had names. He said no survey has been conducted of Cree place-names since the 1970s.

Alan Penn, an advisor to the Grand Council of the Crees, said the very choice of the Caniapiscau reservoir for the commemoration was dubious in the first place. "It's a biological wasteland," he said. "It was the most environmentally harmful part of the way the reservoirs were built. It looks fine on a map, but for the people who knew the area it's an area that has been lost. I suspect many of the authors wouldn't want

their names associated with this place if they actually visited it."

by Alex Roslin

## BARS ACCUSED OF DISCRIMINATION

One day during the recent baseball tournament in Val d'Or, Bertie Wapachee wanted a night out with his wife.

The first stop was Bar Vegas. As they tried to enter, they were asked for a membership card. Cost of the membership card: \$20.

Bertie, who is the Cree Youth Grand Chief, was surprised. It was the first time he was ever asked for a membership card and he's been going there for years.

"I couldn't understand what he was telling me because never in my life was I asked for a membership card there."

As he argued with the doorman, he was even more surprised to see non-Natives walk into the bar, pay just \$1 each and get a stamp.

Bertie asked the doorman why the non-Natives didn't need a membership card. "He couldn't answer that and said talk to my boss. I told him he would hear from me," Bertie said.

Later on, the night took another twist when they went to the Chateau Inn. After paying \$5 at the door, they noticed that non-Natives were being charged only \$2. "Something strange was going on here," he deduced.

Bertie asked a mixed-blooded Cree to go into the bar speaking French and see how much he'd be charged. "Two dollars for you, my friend," they told him.

When Bertie asked the people at the door about the difference in prices, they said regular customers were charged \$2 while others paid \$5. Bertie told them he's been a regular at the Chateau Inn for 12 years. On the other hand, the mixed-blood who was charged only \$2 has only been in the bar a handful of times. Bertie also pointed out that he isn't the type to get rowdy, either, if that was a concern; he hasn't had a drink in five years.

Serge Pomerleau, manager of the Chateau Inn, laughed when told the story. He denied that regulars are charged less and said the story was made up by "a little group of hard-heads (tetes-forts)."

Bernard Cadieux, Bar Vegas manager, said the bar was full that night. "When it's full, we ask for a membership card whether they're Native or not." He denied Bertie's story, saying: "It's my word against yours."

Bertie is exploring his legal options.

-Alex Roslin



c/o Cree School Board  
September 16, 1997



Dear Student,

I suppose that now is just about the time when you may be feeling a little homesick - or even slightly overwhelmed by the changes which have happened to you since you left us here in Nemaska. Having gone through similar experiences, I thought that you might appreciate hearing from me at this time.

Entering school away from friends and family can be a great experience - but it can be a very stressful time as well. The experiences of meeting new people and having new adventures is a wonderful period in your life. But finding a balance between the intoxication of new experiences and the effort necessary to succeed in your chosen area of study can be sometimes a very difficult decision.

This is a decision only you can make for yourself - and even though it may seem like drudgery now, the real adventure only begins with the new intellectual skills that you will be learning these next few years. New and fascinating studies will encourage you to expand your horizons - to reach out for your dreams and to meet your personal goals.

Sometimes, when we first go away from what is familiar, we may become disoriented and confused with all the decisions and issues which are now ours to deal with directly. I know that there are services in your school or faculty which will help you to consider all your options and will assist you with any decision making you feel you need to make concerning your future. I encourage you to use the services available to you - and if you need to contact someone from here, both the School and the Wellness staff will be happy to hear from you.

Your home will always be here, waiting for you. We want you to know that you are always welcome. Your parents, family and your community want you to reach for your dreams — dreams which need outside information and knowledge. Dreams and experiences which will hold you for the rest of your adult life.

This is your time, make the best of it.

Sincerely,

Chief George Wapachee  
Cree Nation of Nemaska



## COALITION AGAINST POWER EXPORTS

Activists make strange bedfellows. Or so it seemed when some Quebec environmental activists got into bed with Hydro-Quebec workers and labour unions at the first general assembly of the Coalition Against the Denationalization of Electricity Sept. 9.

The coalition's mandate is to prevent Hydro-Quebec from going ahead with plans to export power to the United States, in exchange for opening up the Quebec market to U.S. power companies.

Half of the coalition's members are Hydro-Quebec workers' unions concerned about losing their jobs.

The other half consist of environmental protection groups. Quebec Comite Baie James (CBJ) is one. The CBJ fought with the Save James Bay Network five years ago. Now the CBJ has supplied a sizable share of the funding to get the coalition up and running - \$3,300 of the coalition's \$7,165 budget.

A panel member at the coalition's general assembly explained the alliance: "Deregulation of Hydro-Quebec and opening the market here up to other electricity companies means increased competition and therefore increased exploitation of our natural resources," explained one Quebec environmentalist.

On the other hand, the Grand Council of the Crees doesn't see deregulation as a bad thing.

"We believe deregulated companies would not have the financial ability to build a mega-project, such as Great Whale or the Nottaway-Broadback-Ruperts, because they are smaller," said an observer from Grand Council present at the meeting.

Earlier this month, the same observer attended an Albany, N.Y. meeting of environmentalists, among them members of the Save James Bay Network who fought Hydro-Quebec's plans for a second James Bay project. The activists met to gear up for HQ's rumoured plans to resurrect the project.

"We beat them five years ago, but our mistake was not finishing them off," said the Grand Council observer.

The Save James Bay Network plans to meet in Montreal Nov. 8.

-Ingrid Phaneau



## HQ TO CUT SAFETY INSPECTIONS: UNION

Hydro-Quebec is planning to make major cuts to the number of inspectors making sure the dams in the North are safe, says one of the utility's largest unions.

"The less it's inspected, the less it's secure. That's the opinion of everyone who works there," said Jacques Rodier, vice-president of the 6,000-member Union of Professional and Office Workers.

Hydro is planning a sweeping round of cutbacks in all areas of the utility, and inspectors will not be immune, said Rodier. He said nothing is known for sure about what cutbacks will be made, but the rumours are flying.

The news comes as residents of the Cree communities near the hydro dams have expressed worries about the safety of the dams, especially following last year's floods in the Saguenay.

Rodier believes it will be a "major cut--30, 40, 50 per cent--we don't know."

Rodier, who himself is an inspector at LG-2, says the health of the dams is good at the moment. "What would imperil the dams would be to cut the number of inspections."

## FLOY MCBRIDE?

No one in the Chisasibi police has ever heard of Floy McBride, but that is the Native contact person Hydro-Quebec will call in case of emergency at LG-2.

Floy McBride of the Police Amerindienne is listed on an emergency phone list used by Hydro-Quebec in the La Grande region. We got the list after an Access request.

A Chisasibi police officer said the Amerindian Police hasn't been in Chisasibi for 20 years! The officer had also never heard of a Floy McBride.

Is anyone else an emergency contact

with Hydro-Quebec? "Not that I know of," the officer said.

## DAMS SAFE: HQ

The dams are a-okay, says Hydro-Quebec. Gerard Varzeni, Director of Dam Security, said problems with water pressure, the rock dykes and cracks in the dams are all minor and nothing to get excited about.

Some 300,000 tonnes of rock had to be added to the dykes in the North after deterioration caused by higher-than-expected wave action stimulated by strong winds.

"Enormous waves are attacking the dykes," said Varzeni. "With the action of the waves, there is a certain destabilization that occurs. We had to redo the dykes because they were not high enough. Some of the rocks were knocked around."

The problem was solved after \$30 million was spent strengthening the dykes.

Problems with water pressure reported in a previous issue of *The Nation* are also on their way to being solved and are not serious, he said. The higher-than-expected water pressure is still well within Hydro's allowable limits, he said.

Varzeni added that cracks described in an internal Hydro report are all along roads on the crests of the dykes and are above the water. They are a few inches wide and caused by the intense cold.

The dams may be safe, said Cree officials, but it's clear Hydro didn't have all the answers. Hydro should give Crees information on security, safety and emergency planning issues to reassure residents. "The flow of information is always a concern for our people," said Chief Charles Bobbish. "We don't want to live in danger, always thinking something like this (an emergency) will come up."

-ALEX ROSLIN

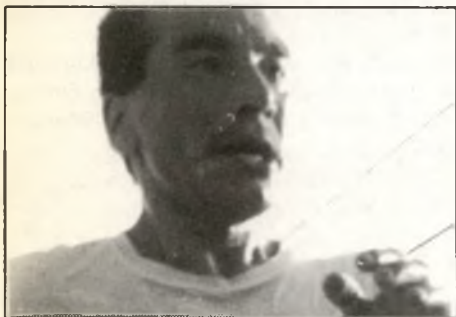
# AWARDS

# The Best James Bay has to offer

## CREE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS '97



**Ronnie Cowboy, Best Storyteller**



**Wally Rabbitskin, Best Athlete**



**Windigo? Or alien art? Mysterious rock formation in Whapmagostui, Best UFO Sighting Spot**

*The Nation* proudly presents the first ever BEST OF JAMES BAY, the best the Cree Nation has to offer. Congratulations to our many accomplished winners and thank you to all those who took the time to respond. Thank you also to our sponsor, AIR CREEBEC. They won two awards: Best Overall Business and Most Charitable Company/Entity. Congratulations! The lucky winner of the draw is Eva Kitchen of Waswanipi, who won two tickets anywhere Air Creebec flies in the known world.

### Best Community Contribution by a Cree (Man)

1. Pastor Allen Etapp
2. Chief Billy Diamond, Bert Blackned, Peter Gull (tie)

### Best Community Contribution by a Cree (Woman)

1. Deputy Grand Chief Violet Pachanos
2. Diane Reid

### Most Outstanding Elder (Man)

1. Robbie Matthew Sr.
2. David Neeposh, Jackie Gull (tied)

### Most Outstanding Elder (Woman)

1. Philomene Mianscum
2. Florrie Mark-Stewart
3. Louisa Diamond

### Most Outstanding Youth

1. Bertie Wapachee
2. Ben Dixon

### Most Outstanding Tallyman

1. Freddy Jolly
  2. Mario Lord
- Honourable Mention: Quebec government*

### Best Hunter

1. Mario Lord, George Stewart (tie)

### Best Fisherperson



**Stephanie Mianscum, Best Athlete**

### 1. Larry Jolly

### 2. J.K. (Waswanipi)

*Honourable Mention: A bear!*

### Fastest Goose Plucker

### 1. Louise D. Bosum

*Honourable Mention: Chisasibi women*

### Best Storyteller

1. Ronnie Cowboy, Robbie Matthew Sr., Florrie Mark-Stewart, Clarence Gull

### Best Bush Camp

1. High Rock (Eastmain)
2. Cabbage Willows, Old Factory, Rogan River, Windy Lake -tie

### Best Politician

1. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
2. Paul Dixon
3. Chief Billy Diamond

### Most Disliked Politician

1. Premier Lucien Bouchard, Chief Walter Hughboy (tie)
  2. Paul Dixon
  3. Jacques Parizeau, Romeo Saganash (tied)
- Le Pick: Neil Diamond*

### Best Public Speaker

1. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Michael Neeposh (tied)
2. Robbie Dick



**Violet Pachanos, Best Community Contribution**



**Eric House, Smartest Cree**

## Cree Most Likely to Change the System

1. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
  2. Paul Dixon
- Honourable Mention: Post-Secondary students

## Cree Most Likely to Lead us in the Next Millennium

1. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
2. Bertie Wapachee, James Shecapio (tied)
3. Ted Moses

## Best Police Officer

1. Samuel House
2. Christopher Cooper
3. Anthony Hester

## Best Social Worker

1. Bella Hester, Clara J. Cooper (tied)

## Best Teacher

1. Mary D. Gull
2. Kathleen Kitty

## Best Athlete (Man)

1. Wally Rabbitskin
2. Brant Blackned
3. Robert Matoush

## Best Athlete (Woman)

1. Stephanie Mianscum, Caroline C. Dixon, Carole Kitchen (tied)

## Best Cook (Man)

1. Simon Shecapio Jr.
2. Raymond Jolly

## Best Cook (Female)

1. Bernice Kitchen
  2. Mary Mark, Mary Ann H. Trapper (tied)
- Honourable Mention: Cree moms

## Best Artist (Man)

1. Tim Whiskeychan
2. Abel Otter

## Best Artist (Woman)

1. Margaret Orr
2. Glenna Matoush, Emma Neeposh (tied)

## Best Coach

1. Hugo Cowboy, Ken Cheechoo (tied)
2. Eddie Pash, William Namagoose (tied)

## Best Fiddler

1. Chief Matthew Mukash
2. Roger Weapenicappo, Byron Jonah (tied)
3. John A. Shecapio, David Sam, James Stewart (tied)

## Best Rock Group/Musical Performer

1. Robert Bobbish, Miigwin (tied)
2. Blue Thunder
3. Kashtin, Def Leppard (tied)

## Best Drumming Group

1. David Cox Memorial Singers
2. Whitetail Singers, Black Stone, Waswanipi,

NWT (tied)

## Best Square-Dancer (Man)

1. Joshua Iserhoff
2. Howard Gilpin, Matthew Ottereyes Sr. (tied)

## Best Square-Dancer (Woman)

1. Evelyn Shecapio
2. Donna Lambert

## Best Cultural Contribution

1. Robbie Matthew Sr.
2. Cree Trappers' Association, Eastmain, Anna Bosum (tied)

## Best Pow Wow/Summer Games

1. Chisasibi
2. Ouje-Bougoumou, Odawa (tied)
3. Chisasibi Regional 1990, Waswanipi (tied)

## Best Traditional Craftsperson

1. Harry Whiskeychan
2. Johnny A. Shecapio, Billy Cooper (tied)

## Best Cree Media Person

1. The Nation staff
2. Bill Namagoose
3. Christopher Stephen, Gaston Cooper, Margaret Nine O'Clock (tied)

## Best Cree Entity/Corporation

1. Kepa Transport, Cree Co., Cree Trappers' Association-Regional (tied)
2. Cree School Board, Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd. (tied)

## Best Cree Employer

1. Cree School Board
  2. Eastmain First Nation
- Honourable Mention: Hydro-Quebec

## Funniest Cree

1. George Hester, Ronnie Otter (tied)
2. Bentley Mianscum

## Best Gossiper

1. Lillian G. Neeposh, The Diamond clan (Bruce, Neil & Nina Diamond) - tied for 1st

## Smartest Cree

1. Eric House
2. Matthew Coon Come, Billy Diamond (tied)

## Best Nickname

1. Chef Jean Cuisine
- Some other nominees: Thelma & Louise, Gerbel, Mitchik, Javex, Weejugs, Steaklettes, Apiqshish, Witchabee, D-bod, Shin-Nee, Ti-Bout, Gee-Low, Co-Cop-shish, Dirty Harry, Jahoon, Rambo, Boubalai

## Cree Closest to Sainthood

1. Jimmy Trapper
2. Neil Diamond

## Best Yard

1. Bert Moar
2. Ouje-Bougoumou
3. Jacob Gull, The Quinns, Tommy Grant (tied)

Honourable Mention: "You get grass, you got a yard!"

## Best Logo

1. Cree School Board
2. GCCEA
3. Wemindji, Nemaska (tied)

## Coollest Vehicle

1. Charlie Louttit
2. Mistissini police boat, Albert Romaine (tied)

## Nicest Smile

1. Robert Auclair, Danny Roy (tied)

## Nicest Person

1. Charlie Cooper
- Some of the nominees: John Murdoch, Maria Mark, Tom Wadden, Dinah Simard, Francine Weistche, Isabel Sealhunter, Sam Blacksmith, Morgana Mooney, Susan Esau, Brian Moore, Robbie Tomatuk, my wife (from Jeffrey Miapo), Marlene Blacksmith, Hattie Kitchen, Lillian Wapachee, Darlene Cheechoo Emily Mianscum, Sandra Webb, Emma Saganash

## Best Pool Player

1. Albert Stephen
2. Chief John Kitchen
3. Charles Katapatuk, Smally Brien (tied)

## Best Checkers/Chess Player

1. David Blackned
2. Donald Gilpin, Chief John Kitchen (tied)

## Best UFO Sighting Spot

1. Whapmagoostui
2. Waswanipi River

## Most Charitable Entity/Company

1. Board of Compensation, Air Creebec, Regional CTA (tied)
2. Kepa Transport, Mishtuk Corp. (tied)

## Best Band Council

1. Nemaska
2. Ouje-Bougoumou
3. Waskaganish, Mistissini, Whapmagoostui (tied)

## Worst Band Council

1. Wemindji
2. Eastmain
3. Mistissini, Waswanipi (tied)



**Neil Diamond,  
Cree 2nd Closest  
to Sainthood**

# CONSUMER AWARDS

The Nation is proud to announce our very first Best of James Bay Consumer Awards '97. From now on, businesses will be fighting for your vote. So we figured we would see just how far they will go to win you over. Test their appreciation. Here are some suggestions for what to ask them next time you drop in:

Hardy Ringuette: When is your next 50 per cent off sale?

Del Restaurant: Will you deliver my All-I-Can-Eat Chinese buffet meal to Waskaganish?

McDonald's: Will you sell the McBeaver (a.k.a. the McBeav) during the Val d'Or Hockey Tournament?

Mike's Pizza: Do you deliver to communities within 30 minutes or it's free? If so, can I order 500 extra large pizzas?

Metro Grocery Store: Do you sell First Nations soda pop?

Bar Chateau Louis: Why have you never had a happy hour?

Canadian Tire: Will you consider putting Billy Diamond on your Canadian Tire money?

Janice's Hair Salon: How many Rachel haircuts can you do in one afternoon?

Michou: Will you sell greeting cards in Cree?

Air Creebec: Will you dub the in-flight movies into Cree?

Val d'Or Hockey Tournament: When will it be broadcast on Maamuitau?

And now, the winners...

## Best Auto Dealer

1. Hardy Ringuette
2. General Motors, Aube, Gareau (Val d'Or) -tied

## Best Snowmobile Dealer

1. Mario Monger, Beric Sport, Ou J'ai des Sports (tie)
2. Indoho

## Best Restaurant

1. Del's Restaurant
2. Brien's Restaurant, Bar-B-Barn, Jacob's Restaurant, Kanio-Kashee Lodge, Waswanipi Cafeteria (tie)

## Worst Restaurant

1. Capissit Lodge Restaurant,

- Waswanipi Cafeteria (tie)  
2. Moulin Rouge (Chibougamau)

## Best Hamburger

1. McDonald's Big Mac
2. Jacob's Restaurant
3. Waswanipi Cafeteria

## Best Pizza

1. Mike's
2. Chisasibi Mitchaup Restaurant, Pizza Hut (tied)
3. Waswanipi Cafeteria

## Best Bar/Club

1. D.J.'s Pub
2. Chateau Louis, Chateau Inn (tied)
3. Confortel (Val d'Or)

## Best Grocery Store

1. Metro; 2. Chisasibi Co-op
3. Oudaa Store (Waswanipi)

## Rowdiest Bar

1. Chateau Louis; 2. D.J.'s
3. Hotel Opemiska (Chapais, '80s)

## Best Hotel

1. Sheraton Centre
2. Journey's End
3. Confortel, Kanio Kashee Lodge (tied)

## Best Hunting Supplies

1. Canadian Tire
2. Mario Monger
3. Le Baron, Ferplus (Chibougamau) -tie

## Best Fishing Supplies

1. Canadian Tire
2. Western
3. Baron, Ferplus (Chiboug.) -tie

## Best Sports Supplies

1. Gilbert Sports Podium
2. Sports Experts

## Best Bridal Shop

1. Jaymore's
2. St. Hubert Street Plaza

## Best Flower Shop

1. Helene Fleuriste
2. Diane Fleuriste

## Best Jewellery Shop

1. Bijouterie Rich Or
2. Bijouterie Baribeau, Bijouterie Val d'Or Enrg (tied)

## Best Children's Clothing

1. Croteau, The Gap for Kids (tied)
2. Petit Luptin, Au coin des petits

## Best Toy Store

1. Toys "R" Us
2. Dollarama (Chibougamau)



**HARDY  
RINGUETTE**  
AUTOMOBILES INC.

1200 rue de l'Escale, Val d'Or, Quebec J9P 4G8  
Tel.: (819) 825-0752 Fax: (819) 825-6412

## YOUR LOW PRICE DEALER

# CAR DEALER IN THE JAMES BAY AREA!

## THANKS TO ALL OUR CLIENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

**Best Furniture Shop**

1. Meubles Marchand
2. Meubles Selections
3. Ameublement Jeanne Inc.

**Best Music Shop**

1. HMV; 2. Musicon, Polyson, Sam The Record Man, Christian Book Store (tied)

**Coolest Clothing Store**

1. Stitches, Rio sud Val d'Or (tied)
2. Bo Jeans, Le Chateau (tied)

**Cheapest Clothing Store**

1. Bargain Shop; 2. Giant Tiger
3. K-Mart, Zellers (tied)

**Best Gift Shop**

1. Wachiya, Hallmark, Michou, Wal-Mart (tied)

**Best Hair Salon**

1. Janice Val d'Or

**Best Hairdresser**

1. Reggie Tomatuk
2. Minnie Longchap

**Favourite Airline**

1. Air Creebec; 2. Canadian

**Best Overall Business**

1. Air Creebec, Cree Co., Kepa Transport (tied)
2. Cree Construction

**Friendliest Staff/Best Service**

1. Nemaska Hotel & Restaurant, Nemaska First Nation
- Honourable Mention: The Nation*

**Best Tournament**

1. Val d'Or; 2. Amos Minor Hockey & Broomball, Spring '96

**Wildest Tournament**

1. Val d'Or

**Favourite Movie**

1. Black Robe; 2. Forrest Gump

**Favourite Movie Star**

1. James Bobbish
2. Brad Pitt, Sandra Bullock, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Graham Greene, Harrison Ford (tied)

**Favourite Music Album**

1. James Bay Cree Youth

**Favourite Musician(s)**

1. Kenny Mianscum, Backstreet Boys (tied)

**Voted #1 for Best Service/Friendliest Staff in James Bay.**

**We thank you for your support!**  
— from the Manager & Staff,  
**Nemaska Hotel**



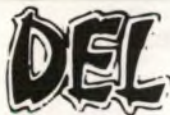
# Nemaska Hotel & Restaurant

2 Lake Shore Road  
Nemaska, QC J0Y 3B0  
Tel.: (819) 673-2615  
Fax: (819) 673-2542

- 10 comfortable rooms with cable TV
- Conference Accomodations hold 60 people
- Great restaurant serving homestyle country cooking
- View of Champion Lake and the village

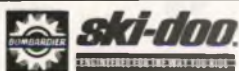


**Restaurant**



**Val d'Or Ltée**

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*"Best Restaurant in James Bay"*  
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Fax: (418) 748-3448

**BEST OF JAMES BAY**



**Place Le Chainon Chibougamau 418-748-3232**

*Thanks to our Native customers*  
*for their support, from Gilles and Pierre*

# A river still runs through it

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

The Pepeshquasati river, called the Papas by Cree residents, is a dream of a lifetime for most people into fishing.

The Papas flows into Lake Mistissini, where larger-than-life speckled trout never fail to awake anticipation in the most jaded of anyone who has ever fished.

It is a series of rapids not accessible to any but those who are privileged to be chosen or allowed to fish there. If it seems that I am going on, let it be said that no words can truly give credit to the Papas experience. Most people would be happy with a two pound speckle but they are smaller than the average of four to six pounds that the Papas regularly provides to the lucky b\*st\*rds who can cast a line there.

I was one of those lucky enough to try my luck.

It all started when I heard about the new Cree economic movement to seriously open up the tourism potentials of the Cree territory. I talked to Jason Coonishish, one of the younger Mistissini Crees, to venture into this field. Coonishish had started about four years ago. His business, Adventure Tours, has taken off without a doubt, winning numerous awards.

His clients are Cree, Swedish, French from France and Quebec, Korean, Japanese, etc. Coming from all over the world, the tourists come for a variety of reasons, all of which Coonishish and other Mistissini people supply. Everything from culture-oriented trips to hunting and fishing. With other



WILLIAM NICHOLLS

**Glen Wapachee (l.) and Lyle "Lyle" Stewart on The Papas.**

communities starting to seriously look at tourism as an economic choice, it was time to start checking it out.

When I arrived in Mistissini, it was a short visit before Waasheskun Airways was ready to fly Lyle Stewart of *Hour Magazine*, some of the Ouje-Bougoumou Eeyou business people and myself to the Papas. Seeing us off were some of the Mistissini residents. One of them jokingly remarked to me, "Don't get into trouble now." I replied, "Hey, I've only got one condom, how much trouble can I get into?" Just joking, boys.

It seems that the O.J. band uses Mistissini Lake Outfitting Camps and Coonishish a lot. Every year for the past four or five years they've averaged one or two trips a year to go fishing.

They were sharing the bush plane with us. Some people get a little nervous flying in these small planes but I had the same confidence in our pilot Paul Petawabano that other Mistissini residents have. It wasn't always

that way.

Petawabano was one of the first, if not the first, James Bay Cree pilot. When he arrived back in Mistissini, local Crees were unsure about flying with him. They couldn't believe a Cree could fly. Today that has changed. Petawabano once took up a group of kids during Christmas for a ride. During it one of his landing skis came unattached. It was truly a X-mas miracle that Petawabano's flying skills brought everyone safely down to terra firma. He never received a medal for this but I always thought he deserved one if anyone did. Suffice to say no one questions his skills as a pilot these days.

It was a short enjoyable plane ride to the Papas. We were greeted by Pierre Coon Come and his bevy of guides. One was being flown



WILLIAM NICHOLLS

**"The King."**



LYLE STEWART

**Caught Hook Point.**

out by the same plane that brought us in. He had come down with some bug.

His replacement would be King Stone, soon to become our guide. Stone had been hired to deliver gas and was pressed into service as a guide. Knowing the King, it promised to be quite an interesting trip up the river. He didn't fail us in those expectations. His motor was too big to try the shallower waters, and at one point, three of us were off-loaded on to a sand bar while Glen Wapachee and King Stone braved the waters. After making it we walked the bar and found that we were expected to walk out of the boat again. A small problem as Stewart and myself weren't wearing rubber boots. Fortunately Wapachee was getting low on smokes and piggy-backed all comers for four cigarettes each. We paid the toll and were rewarded with some of the best speckle fishing I've had in years.

Since King Stone's boat was too big to make it up to the higher rapids, Lyle and myself on the final day went up with another guide. Kevin Gunner showed us some of the spots where others had pulled out large fish. I lost the only big one to grab my hook at that section of the Papas. I also lost the second of two EGB hooks loaned to me by my cousin Chris Quinn. Sorry, bud. I was even sorrier after it had been rescued once by Kevin after I had cast too close to a tree and caught it up in some branches. I can hear some relatives already saying, "Yep, that's Will," even as they read this but the 32.6 kilograms (over 60 pounds counting cooler) of fish making it's way back to Montreal with me makes up for any future teasing I might have to endure.

It had been a number of years since I had visited the Papas. A little over 20 years ago to be exact.

I had never forgotten the beauty of the place but it was nice to have it refreshed once again. Pure, untouched land. The only signs of man are three cabins and the skeletons of old camps fading into the land from which they sprang. Blueberry season was coming to a end but there were still plenty on hand. Rather in the hand and going for my mouth in my case. All in all, it was a peaceful, restful, stress-free interlude in my life. Meals were cooked for us, firewood cut and stacked for cold nights, even the fish were cleaned and packaged for us when it was time to leave.

When we all got on the plane to fly out to Vieux Poste, it was an envious longing that was in my eyes looking back at the Papas. The Coon Come family is lucky to have such a beautiful spot as part of their family territory and their reputation as hosts is undiminished.

At Vieux Poste, it was into a heavy work session for the O.J. Council. Since I was up for a fishing story, I didn't follow my journalistic conventions and listen under the window. They did stay up until the wee hours of the morning hard at work.

It must be all that fresh air and relaxation because Lyle and myself came away with renewed purpose and ready to work again. More than that we were positively looking forward to it. O.J. did get a head start on it though. It goes to show that meetings such as those are suited to the new Cree tourism movement. No distraction and a little fishing goes a long way to a new outlook in the boardroom. Somehow the office seems less stuffy these days.

Tourism in all the communities seems to be taking off. Ouje-Bougoumou has seen over a thousand visitors to its culture camp. They've brought a ferry barge to take both locals and tourists in the summer. Mistissini has also made a winter trail for snowmobilers leading to the culture camp and beyond. It is one of the stops along the way for the Raid des Braves skidoo race. Mistissini is upgrading and renovating two fishing camps.



**Guide Kenny Gunner and three of the O.J. tribe.**

If you're looking for a little R&R as well as peppering yourself, friends and/or the employees up, give Jason a call at 418-923-3552 or call Unique Tours in Montreal at 514-843-8873 and ask for Sandro.

To stay at the Mistissini Cultural Camp, costs run \$25/day per person not including meals or sleeping bag. To book early for Loius Joilliet call Michael Prince of Mistissini's Tourism Office at 418-923-3461. For the technically inclined see the web page at:

<http://nation.mistissini.qc.ca> or email: [tourism@nation.mistissini.qc.ca](mailto:tourism@nation.mistissini.qc.ca)

**On behalf of** the staff at James Bay Eeyou School and the community of Chisasibi we extend our sincere congratulations to the following graduates of 1997:

**ENGLISH SECTOR:**

Nian Bobbish

Lyle Cox - English Valedictorian

George Head

Ronald Pachano

Daniel Pachanos

**FRENCH SECTOR:**

Rachelle Lafond

Calvin Pepabano

Sarah Rupert - Cree Valedictorian

Leslie Sealhunter

Shaun Spencer - French Valedictorian

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the graduation ceremony which took place September 5th at the Mitchuap auditorium, especially our guest speaker Margaret Sam Cromarty. Special thanks also go to Student Services and the Cree School Board head office who donated gifts to the graduates.

# Looking at the future

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

*The Nation* had a chance to talk to Clarence Tomatuk about the upcoming Cree Language and Culture Conference. The conference promises to be a milestone for the Crees. It is one of the few unbroken promises from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement seeing implementation.

Tomatuk, the director of Education Services for the Cree School Board, says this conference is looking at addressing a "living language, the Cree language," and its future.

It's all happening November 4, 5 and 6th in Ouje-Bougoumou. The CSB will be hosting Elders, Cree entities, Band Council members, leaders, youth and Cree teachers. It is a forum where they'll discuss Cree language and culture.

Tomatuk is also a member of the steering committee organizing the conference. Members include Elder Winnie Mianscum, youth Harry Bosum, school commissioner Reggie Neeposh, Cree Program Coordinator Daisy Herodier, Kenny Mianscum from the Cree Cultural Institute, Anna Bosum of a local band Cree cultural department, Luke MacLeod, the coordinator for the conference, and Louise Shecapio.

Tomatuk says the CSB looked for a cross section of people. They want to make sure everyone in the Cree world, whether it be leadership, entities, Elders, youth or education workers, would have a chance to say what the future of the Cree language and culture would be.

During this time all schools will be closed. Teachers will be taking pedagogical days. Days that they study, some for self-improvement in their fields, and yet others, Cree, who are looking at the future of the Cree Nation itself.

***The Nation:* When did the CSB come up with the idea to do a conference on these issues?**

Clarence Tomatuk: It started back in a meeting in March 1996, just before the spring goose hunt. It was a presentation given by on the progress of Cree as a Language of Instruction and related issues.

At that point it was stressed there should be a moment in time where we step back and look forward to what we can do to improve our efforts in the policy of Cree as a Language of Instruction. To reflect on what's been done since certain decisions have been made from even as far back as when the CSB was created.

But the crucial moment was the decision by a joint meeting of the chiefs and the school commissioners on Dec. 6, 1988.

There were principles by the leadership where it was said that Cree as a Language of Instruction needed to be implemented into the schools.

**Will you be looking back at what has been done? What will be the interesting focus of the conference?**

I think the main focus of the conference is to look at our culture and language that's being implemented in our schools. At this point we also have to see what people can do outside of our schools, the communities, our leaders, the

Elders, in maintaining Cree as a living language and a living way of life. We are going to look at Cree at the local level, the way it's being taught in our schools and the role that the leadership and the entities created under the JBNQA have in maintaining our language in the workplace. We will be looking at the Cree language as a surviving and living language in Canada.

**We need to know where we want to go and what needs to be done.**



**Clarence Tomatuk.**

Cree is one of the languages that is expected to survive into

the next century, so I guess one of the purposes of this conference is to safeguard that?

I think that's the main focus. To keep our language alive in our school system and to get equal support within the communities. Everyone has a part to play in safeguarding our language as well as protecting it and our culture. Culture is an important aspect. Culture and language I believe come together in the Cree world. We have to take that with us into the future.

I've heard some discussions have been on standardizing the written language. It seems to me that there would be some problems with this. Different dialects and that sort of thing would play a part in this. How would the conference handle this?

Well, we are hoping at this conference we would have the support for not a standard but a consistent writing system that blends with the way we speak and express things. We would look at the way it could adapt itself eventually to become a standard. We have to take things step by step but I think we are at the point now where we need to start writing our language to show to our children, to show the community and others that our language can be written.

Although our tradition has been oral, we need in the future to find a writing system that is consistent and that everybody understands. It takes education to do that and we can't do it overnight. It takes information to be provided to people, especially the parents. I think some have to start learning about the writing system. The children have been having problems with parent support when doing homework. We need to work to change this.

It's worked in different places up North but it took a long time. I've heard about the results in such places a Greenland, Alaska and the Northwest Territories. They have been active in maintaining one writing system. They are using that and have been communicating with that. This is something we have to think about.

You'll have a number of people coming to this conference. What kind of people do you expect?

We're hoping to have all Cree teachers who have been teaching or are in training, school committee members, at least six people from each community -- two from the Band Council, two youth and two Elders -- and all other educational staff at the local level who understand and speak the Cree language, those who are involved with Cree as a Language of Instruction implementation are invited to the conference.

We have keynote speakers from our own people as well as a Cree from Saskatchewan, who studied the loss of language and culture. She will be the first keynote speaker and will be talking about what the loss of language and culture means to Native people. This lady has been working 20 years in the development of native language, the curriculum and a study of the languages themselves and how to keep them alive.

**Although our tradition has been oral, we need in the future to find a writing system that is consistent and that everybody understands.**

Has this loss been experienced by the Crees out west?

It's been a big problem out west where some Native groups have been experiencing those losses. Some of it results from the greater numbers of people spending time in the cities rather than the North. We're talking thousands in the cities and their languages aren't being reinforced in the schools. There aren't many examples of Native control over education where their language is first. I think they're starting to come around to the fact that it's important to maintain and protect your language. These language issues are surfacing.

At the school board, I believe we're one of the best examples of how we can integrate our language in our school system. We are teaching our children our language and values, our culture. The CSB and the Council of Commissioners committed to Cree as a Language of Instruction in the early days. It was very difficult in the beginning when that idea came to implement Cree as a Language of Instruction in the schools.

I'll give you some background on Cree issue here at the CSB. In 1978 we took control of Cree education. It gave the Crees the power to control their own education. This was the start of the CSB. It is the instrument by which education is provided.

Wemindji, at this time, was the only school which taught Cree at the pre-school level. The curriculum was developed by Lucy Salt and Magdalene Gautier in 1981. The material they designed was presented to the CSB and teachers piloted this package in 1981. School committees have to approve anything before it can be used in the schools. In the early days, in the early 1980s, parents went against the decision to use Cree as the Language of Instruction. I believe it was because they didn't believe there was enough material and there weren't enough teachers trained or the facilities they needed weren't in place to give that program credibility. They didn't think that program would work.

In 1988, the councilors and chiefs, if you'll remember, passed a resolution to teach Cree as a Language of Instruction. That's one of the principles that identified the direction of Cree education. One of the main points coming out of this was to teach Cree in our schools and to improve the standard of Cree without losing the standard of education that the MEQ offers in French and English. We had to be at the same standard.

It required a lot of planning and effort. Teachers needed training. Material needed to be developed. Writing system had to be upgraded because the older generation only knew the syllabics of when it came to reading the Bible or singing hymns in the English Protestant text that were written by John Horten and ministers at the time. So there was a writing system more geared to the Anglican readings or the Catholic.

In 1991 to '92, there were two teachers hired to develop Cree Grade One material. A curriculum guide was developed. We had all the materials to accompany and compliment the Cree Grade

**At the school board, I believe we're one of the best examples of how we can integrate our language in our school system.**

continued on page 19



# EYYOU ASTCHEE

*The development of Eeyou Astchee excludes the Crees from long-term benefits.*

*Fact: 750 full-time jobs exist on the La Grande Project. Almost no Crees are employed by Hydro-Quebec.*

*Fact: Eeyou Astchee supports 14,000 jobs in the forestry sector. Almost no Crees work for non-Cree forestry companies.*

*Fact: Mining is an important sector of development in Eeyou Astchee. The Troilus project near Mistissini is the first to employ Crees in significant numbers.*

## LET'S ACT TOGETHER

*1. Let's realize Hydro-Quebec's 1986 promise of 150 jobs on the La Grande Project.*

*2. Let's get some employment equity for the Crees in Eeyou Astchee.*



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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)  
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
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One guide. We have material that was developed in the Circle Programs. There are things in the Circle Programs like storybooks, songbook, words about the circle language, arts, the math book was also adopted.

In the fall of '93 the CLIP (Cree as a Language of Instruction Program) was piloted in Chisasibi and Waskaganish. In 93-94 the Cree Grade Two was developed and piloted in '94 in those communities.

From there, it was up to each community to decide the rate of how they would implement or introduce Cree as a Language of Instruction in their schools. Today, all the nine schools except Ouje-Bougoumou have begun implementation of Grade One.

I'm wondering if you plan to extend Cree as a Language of Instruction in the upper grades and how you'll determine the criteria for new materials? Is this something that you'll look for at the conference?

I think that those areas, that direction, we need from the conference. We need to know where we want to go and what needs to be done. We want to reflect what's happened in the past and where are now and where we want to go in our language. The council has a mandate to study and research to implement Cree as a Language of Instruction. What we have and what we are developing. We need to know where we are and where we are going. It's part of the mandate of Education Services to look at and evaluate the present program.

The present program is well-received by the parents and grandparents. The kids want more. We can't stop at Grade Three. There's the possibility of extending it up to Grades Four, Five and Six in the future after 1999. A lot of it will result in what comes out of this conference. The consultations and developments will see how far we can go. I think the interest is their to keep our language alive into the future for the younger generations.

**So this will be a look at the options for the Cree?**

What we need is an ongoing development. Revisions of the present programs. Making Adopting and making additional changes as we go on to improve the programs. We need to develop and produce reading materials for the children. It's Cree literature. We need to develop the Eastern Cree language system.

I won't say a standard but a consistent writing system that respects each others' dialects, and we need to provide training to our teachers. They will be the ones to implement Cree as a Language of Instruction. All of this we can't do alone. We all have to work together.

The language in the workplace and the language in the school - we have to look at this as an official language in the North. It must be alive and validated in written and oral language.

**So what is the aim of the whole conference in a nutshell?**

The aim is to get people talking about our language, the Cree language. To give us, the Cree School Board, direction and advice on where we should be going. All input is important for future generations, the future youth.

**We have to look at this as an official language in the North.**

## Natives are Canada's real heroes

**Letter to *The Nation*.**

*This letter appeared in The Montreal Gazette, May 29, 1996.*

According to June Callwood in her book "Portrait of Canada," Dollard des Ormeaux, for whom the May 24 holiday is named in Quebec, did not head out with the intention of saving Montreal, but rather to steal furs from the Natives. In chapter 2, pages 19 and 20, she writes:

"Evidence indicates they expected to ambush an Iroquois hunting party returning exhausted from portages and low on ammunition in order to relieve the hunters of their winter catch... Instead, Dollard and his small band encountered the main body of 800 Iroquois braves headed from the Richelieu River to attack Ville-Marie. Dollard has become a legend in Quebec as the savior of Canada, his reputation resting on the doubtful theory that he knew of the advancing Iroquois and recruited his forces to make a suicide stand."

If Ms. Callwood is correct in her interpretation of history, it would seem that des Ormeaux, though considered a hero by the French, was so only by accident. A piece of bad luck on his part, though, resulting in his being remembered as a "hero" instead of a common thug.

In Dee Brown's historical book "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," it is pointed out that not one of the treaties ever signed has been kept, and all have been broken by us.

Let's face it: Many of our so-called "heroes," both English and French, are so only from a narrow ethnocentric viewpoint.

The list of atrocities perpetrated by our ancestors against Native peoples should shame us at least enough not to celebrate their memories with public holidays.

I submit that the only real heroes—in any of our history that involves contact with Native peoples—have been the ones we do not celebrate: the Native heroes. We fought to steal and conquer. Our attacks were offensive. Even in defence we were offensive: we fought not for our mere collective survival, but to defend that which we stole, and so we could continue to steal and conquer. That was not heroic.

Natives fought and attacks in self-defense, to survive. They realized, too late, that we lied when we said we came in peace.

Natives across North America fought an unwinnable war. Their heroes, such as Sitting Bull, were the real heroes of North American history.

**Dan Noseworthy  
Montreal**

\*\*\*\*\*



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# The Twilight Zone

## YOUR HOROSCOPE WITH THELMA & LOUISE

**Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)** A sexy someone has got your attention. You're both fascinated and afraid of passion. Try getting closer and you'll know if this is where you belong. Accept a spur of the moment invitation. Things are heating up.

**Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)** Loose talk will come back to haunt you! Someone is pushing you to make an important emotional decision. Tell them to back off and give you time. Address a prob that lies beneath the surface. If not, swim for shore.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Commit a random act of kindness. Cut free from a past nuisance. Don't be afraid to push yourself to the limits. The world won't collapse if you say "NO" once in a while. An outspoken opponent will want to face off with you - Stand your ground.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Don't wait for them to tell you what you want to hear. Tell them yourself and do it now! The world is not a perfect place so stop trying to make it one. You will feel much better if you take a laid-back attitude. We see dollar signs in

your future.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** Someone is hanging on your every word. Be careful: You have more power than you realize. Enjoy being a magnet. Your middle name is popularity. Choosing a mate will be a difficult decision. But you have the pick of the litter.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Accept all invitations. You are party central this month babe! You'll bump into a charmer who could sweep you off your feet. Use your brains in matters of love and put your hormones on the shelf for the time. A trip is in the forecast for you!

**Leo (July 23-Aug 22)** Pull out your best one liners. The object is to be funny, not cheesy. Try manipulating behind the scenes and you'll get what you want. In work, don't rush to complete tasks. Remember it's not about finishing first but finishing best.

**Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)** Stop shutting out the love of your life. Share your deepest secrets. Your mate will meet you half way. A friend who has power in upper circles is looking out for you. Pay attention to them and you will know what moves to

make. Now is not the time for pettiness.

**Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)** Stop longing for Mr. Unavailable. Focus on current relationship. Assert yourself and you'll get your way. Show off the brain that lies beneath your glamorous exterior. You can form a career alliance that can take you far.

**Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)** You will be meeting a mysterious person who can change your life. Depend on yourself and no one else. It will make you stronger. This will prepare you for a difficult situation: Someone around you has a big ego and you are bruising it.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)** You refuse to leave and you don't know why you are staying. It's time to decide what you want to do with this love-hate relationship. You have locked yourself into an emotional prison. Take courage and move on to something more uplifting.

**Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)** Flirting brings you an available cutie from your own circle. Take off your rose-coloured glasses and examine the future clearly. Change is at hand. Pay attention and adjust to it. Look for unexpected cash.

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Experience in detail store  
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**and fluency in Cree is a requirement.**

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# Between Friends (with Dearth Edmunds)

## Who knows you better - your best friend or your man?! Just for fun, find out...

Put your best buddy and your main squeeze to the test - Ask THEM to write their answers to these questions about you and then judge for yourself! Who scored the most. (Please don't take the results too seriously - just have fun with it!)

### Part 1 - What or Who is your all-time favourite...

1. movie
2. Hollywood actor
3. song
4. article of clothing
5. junk food to pig out on

### Part 2 - Multiple Choice

Your idea of a dream vacation would be:

- a) Florida with friends
- b) a romantic getaway to Niagara Falls
- c) shopping in New York (with unlimited cash)

The one TV show you could not live without is:

- a) All My Children
- b) Seinfeld
- c) the evening news

At the store, the magazine you'd be most likely to flick through would be:

- a) Cosmopolitan
- b) Time magazine
- c) Better Homes & Gardens
- d) *The Nation*, of course!

The one concert you would give anything to see would be:

- a) Tina Turner
- b) Metallica

### c) Celine Dion

You just found out you have the afternoon off. You would be most likely to:

- a) call your boyfriend and tell him to meet you at home in 10 minutes...
- b) run some household errands that you've been avoiding
- c) laze around in your pj's, catch up on the soaps, call a few long-distance buddies

You find a wallet FULL of credit cards and cash. You would, without a doubt:

- a) return the wallet to its rightful owner the way you found it
- b) take just a little money before returning it, they'll probably never miss it
- c) hey, if you're going to take \$20, you might as well take \$2000! It's the owner's fault for being so careless, right?! Finders, keepers, yadda-yadda...

Good luck, bonne chance!




Join **Maamuitaau** each week for stories that reflect Cree culture, entertainment, education and politics.

Saturdays 06:28 SRC Sundays 07:00 CBMT, 18:00 SRC

Chaque semaine, **Maamuitaau** présente en langue crie des reportages et des chroniques portant sur la culture, les loisirs, l'éducation et la politique.

Samedi 6 h 28 SRC Dimanche 7 h CBMT, 18 h SRC

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September 27 & 28, 1997

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# Food fit for the Gods

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

Ah, food, one of the basic necessities of life. It can be simple or complex in the making. One person's delight leaves a bad taste in the mouth of another. It has been said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Something I've found to be more or less true, but it applies to women as well.

So when word came through the grapevine that Les Fêtes Gourmandes Internationale de Montreal was hitting town there was no choice but to pack a camera, notebook and tastebuds and head off to sample some culinary delights. This year, the 6th annual taste-off was going to feature "caribou, Arctic salmon and typical Amerindian cooking," and with that there wasn't really another choice. *The Nation* would be checking out the Amerindian gourmande cuisine.

Of course there was a lot more promised: Louisiana alligator, Quebec-raised buffalo and wild boar, emu and ostrich, special milkshakes, wines and cheeses from France, desserts galore and a whole host of mouth-watering dishes.

The first stop after a blue and blackberry milkshake was the Amerindian section to remember home with a caribou brochette. What can I say, I've tasted better at home but it was a welcome taste. Down in Montreal, they had to make do with a huge propane baroque-style grill, whereas at home it's a fire. I must say, though, that it was mighty tasty. Another taste delight was the rabbit that Ingrid Phanoff ordered for herself. I got a morsel that had me slaver like a wild beast for more. The bannock (or "pain Amerindian," as the bouchère called it) was as good as any I've had and better than some. Full marks to Chef Versailles and kudos to the people of Nunavik, who sponsored this booth.

After this it was over to the wine and cheese section. A nice robust Cote-des-Rhones red wine went well with the three aged cheeses platter. Another well-populated stand attesting to France's reputation in the food and wine world. Cigars were available but I passed on those as I wanted my palate as pure as possible. I didn't check to see if they were Cuban. The wine and cheese went down well.



Next stop was at Les Autruches De La Mauricie to try out that new fad I had been told about. It seems that the latest, greatest newest food craze involved our flightless feathered friends, the ostrich and emu. My first thought was that the eggs would make one heck of an omelet but this was not to be save on the Flinestones that day. Looking over the selection, Ingrid and myself elected to try the smoked ostrich brochette. It was a mouth-watering treat with a taste like none I've ever experienced before that day. Not bad at all. I was sorry when the last piece went down. Something to try out if you ever get the chance.

Next in line for my bottomless pit was a little bit of an alleged aphrodisiac, oysters. I found them at the Maestro S.V.P. Bistro des Fruits de Mer. While they had a variety I took them as I've always liked. Freshly opened so you don't have a chance cutting yourself. Ingrid and myself shared seven. Don't ask how we shared the seventh. I plead the fifth.

It was the entrée that helped to prepare me for the Bison Bourguignon. Melt-in-your-mouth meat that slowly but inevitably spreads its fantastic delectable taste throughout my mouth. Even after all this time buffalo remains an exotic treat for me. One that has me almost but not quite drooling on my keyboard memory of that dish. I recommend it heartedly if visiting Montreal.

Now I was ready for my just desserts. The Choc-O-Fruits was specializing in a fondu du chocolat. Strawberries, bananas, pineapple and other fruits with a layer of liquid chocolate poured liberally over them. I was in dessert heaven.

Another feature was the showcase of new food products originating in Quebec. I tasted the carbonated apple juice. Refresh-

ing and not bad at all. If Crees ever manage to get into the food business this would make an ideal place to show off their wares.

Along with the foods, the Fêtes des Gourmands showcased some entertainment. The Vieux Munich was popping out polkas along with German food and beers. The sounds reminded of Oktoberfest come early. La Vesse du Loup was on hand to play some traditional

Québécois music and classics. African overtures were featured in dance, music and drums. Labrador featured fiddlers jiggling up a storm. Clowns were on hand to entertain the young.

One of the best food shows was the Salvadorean cuisine. I went for a coconut milk drink. The man in the photo was nicknamed Coco Loco. When he swung the machete people stayed back but watched in fascination. It looked like a crazed butcher out on the town. He would first chop the top off and give it to you with a straw. After drinking the coconut milk you would return. Coco Loco would then chop it in half so you could eat the coconut meat. Many brought a coconut just to see this madman master the art of machete chopping once again. I considered it one of the highlights myself.

All in all it was a Fêtes worth visiting and I recommend that next August you include it on your choice of things to do in Montreal. It is a huge happening place that keeps you hopping from place to place. Ingrid and myself walked, ate, drank and watched a great many things.

It was some time for relaxation and a little exercise. There was a place to rent canoes and paddleboats by the hour. Ingrid decided that a paddleboat would be fun. Surprisingly it is. While paddling off some of the calories we had consumed we saw a huge fish... by southern standards. Probably about 10 or so pounds blithely swimming around. It was a restful time with great scenery. The water pathway even came close to Montreal's Casino. No, we didn't drop in there. Our money went to feed our tastebuds and nowhere else.

Les Fêtes de Gourmandes is definitely a recommend stop for all.



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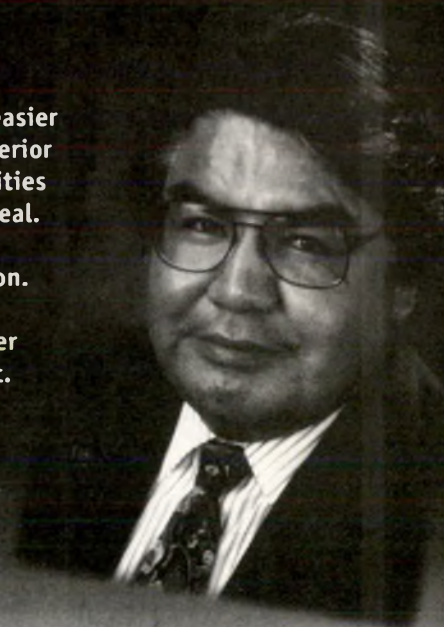
Departure	Arrive	Arrive	Arrive
Montreal 8:50 am	Chibougamau 10:00 am	La Grande 11:35 am	Chisasibi 12:20am
Chisasibi 1:40 pm	La Grande 2:00 pm	Chibougamau 3:35pm	Montreal 5:15pm

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**Happy birthday** to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Niiyan. Happy birthday to you!!! We would like to send birthday greetings

# CLASSIFIEDS

to our baby sister Niyaans, better known as Go-go-gee. You are growing up so fast that you're also getting tougher which means it's time we stop teasing and bugging you because you are getting stronger too. All the best to you. from your big bro. and sisters. (Stephan, Roxanne and Chayanne.)

**belated birthday wish** going out to a very special sister Cheryl Trapper on September 5th. Although this birthday wish is coming a bit late, it doesn't mean your birthday isn't important to me. Because it is and so are you!! Even though you are far, you are always in my thoughts. Love always, sis Rosie. xoxox.

**Happy birthday** to our daughter Sarah Ottereyes. She'll be celebrating her sixteenth birthday on October 03, 1997. Hope your dreams and wishes come true. Love always, mom and dad.

**Happy birthday** to Joni-Lee Tapiatic on August 25, 1997. Sorry I forgot to tell you happy birthday when I saw you at the pool hall even though I knew it was your birthday. Well, better late than never.. From your buddy across the street, G3, Hse. #8.

**Happy birthday** to our handsome son Tyler Shansush on September 15th. It seems like only yesterday you were born. You are growing up too fast! Always remember how much we love you! Hugs and kisses, mom and dad (Wemindji)

**Happy 5th birthday** to our wonderful and beautiful sister Tobie. You will always be our special sister. All your wishes and dreams come true. Love, sis and bros.

**Wishing happy birthday to 2** extraordinary parents, David (September 3) and Myrna (August 23). Sorry this message is so late. Don't worry, you'll get a cake soon! xoxox from David Jr. Alexandra and Isabelle..

# PICK LE

*It's been a year since the last time I was close 2 U that August night in room 108 at Sigma. I wish 2 C U once again but you're so far away. But in my mind you're still so close 2 me. Our forbidden love still burns. Call me.*

**Happy 4th birthday** to Thomas Longchap on August 20 and good luck on your first school year. Also to Teddy Longchap, happy 3rd birthday on September 15. I know it's early for your birthday greeting. Happy birthday to both of you. I love you and miss you a lot. P.S. See you next month (Sept.) Love always, sally (Chis)

we would like to wish a happy birthday to my sister Sarah Ottereyes on October 3, 1997. From rusty and Amanda.

**Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you. Happy sweet second birthday to our baby Niyaan Waapikun Gunner on September 19, 1997. We promise we'll make your day a good one. Lots of love, hugs and kisses coming your way. From mom and dad (W.L.Y.)**

**Happy birthday** to Glen Freddy Shecapio (Wapm) on September 17 and to Jeremy Swallow on September 26. Hope U 2 have a good time and take care. Love and prayers, Christine and Danny Shecapio (Ojaj)

**Happy birthday** to Stanley Gunner on September 10th. We love you and we miss you. Happy birthday daddy. From Rosemary, Robert and baby Sarah. Take care. We love you so much and we miss you so much.

**Happy 18th birthday** to my sister Jessica Otter on September 5th, 1997. remember you will always be my sister n matter what happens and I will always love you. From your sister

Marlena  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

## Otter.

**Happy 15th birthday** to this pretty girl on September 7, 1997, her name is Melissa Gull. Happy birthday my friend. remember we used to tease each other when we were 5 years old, but that will never happen again. From friend always, your next door neighbor Marlena Otter.

**A belated birthday** wish to my sister Demerise Meskino on August 23rd and to my brothers Thomas on August 17 and my baby bro. Jamesjie on August 21 and many more to come. Love you. P.S. Demerise, hurry. I want a new nephew. From sis Mags. friend M.H.

## 102-WEDDINGS

**Congratulations** to Kenneth and Angela who got married on August 8, 1997. Your wedding was beautiful, the catering was delicious and the dance was great! I had a blast. P.S. Hope you a wonderful time in Las Vegas! Love, Steph.

**Congratulations!** to my brother Kevin and soon to be sister in law Eileen Coonishish on their upcoming wedding on September 27, 1997 in Mississini, Que.. From Norma Terry and Jr. Spencer.

**Congratulations** to friends of mine, Rita Rabbitskin and Errol Mianscum on their wedding day, July 25th. Sorry I couldn't make it, but I was thinking of you. Wishing you both the best and happiness. Erica P. Gull.

**Congratulations** to my favorite brother Kevin Earl Pepabano and his wife to be Eileen Coonishish on their upcoming wedding on September 27th, 1997 in Mistissini. I wish you both happiness in all the years to come and hope your love grows stronger everyday. P.S. Take good care of your baby boy Eric Lee Pepabano. Love always, your sister Debra Pepabano. Chisasibi. xoxoxoxo.

## 103-ANNIVERSARIES

**To the parents** of 248 Nesk Street, Mississini. Your troops would like to wish you a memorable 28th anniversary on September 5, 1997. Wishing you all the best and may the good Lord bless ya!

**We want to say happy 1st anniversary to Mina and Gary Lameboy on August 23, 1997. From your best man Glen Salt and maid of honor Emma Snowboy and your ushers and bridesmaids Jerry Lameboy, Diane lameboy, Frank Sam, Nancy Rupert, David Snowboy, Rachel Louttit, especially your ring boy and flower girl Kyle Sam, Mary Duff. P.S. Happy 1st anniversary to Helen and Jacob lameboy on August 23, 1997. Oh by the way, How's your son Ronnie. Give a kiss for us. Bye!**

**Happy anniversary** to my loving husband Stanley on September 20th, 1997. Being married to you is the best things that ever happened to me. I love being your wife and I love our lives together. I love you with all my heart. Winnie. By the way, happy birthday on the 10th.

**Happy belated anniversary** to my loving parents/grandparents on August 15, 1997. Words cannot express how much you mean to us, you were always there when we needed you. So on this special day we wish you so much love and happiness, also best wishes in the many more years to come. God bless you and we love you so much. Happy 37th anniversary, Boyce and Flora.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Trapper! Your daughter/granddaughter, Elizabeth Trapper and Alayna Star T. Ottereyes.

## 104-GRADUATIONS

**Congrats** Chisasibi NECE Educators. Congratulations to the glorious child care educators who worked hard over the past 18 months to successfully complete their intensive college attestation. Your dedication and hard work have paid off and you will all experience the pride on August 29th (Graduation Day). On behalf of Tony, Taurean and yours truly, I want to wish you all the best in your future endeavors. You were a great team of students. I wish to thank your families for supporting you during your challenging course work. It was a pleasure being your teacher and companion. I am proud of each and everyone of you. Good luck! Delores.

## 300-PERSONALS

**Francine Jourdain:** Please contact: A. Desjarlais, box 498, Waskaganish, PQ J0M 1R0. Or call (819) 895-2204, 895-2387.

**To my son** Richard Cheezo, who is attending Canadore College in North Bay. I want to tell you how proud I am of you in your decision of going back to school. I know it won't be easy and there will be many obstacles along the way but "just hang in there". Remember, I'm just a phone call away if you need me. Also, happy birthday to you on October 6th and many more to come. Take good care of yourself and study hard. (Mom loves her handsome son.)

**Hello to Calvin House** in Chisasibi and to my sister Sarah Marie of Waskaganish. Calvin, shall we meet again. Sarah, take care of yourself. With all my love, Norma.

**This goes out to someone.** He knows who he is: If I could only turn back time, we could still be one. Deep down I still care and hope that someday what we did and shared will

once again come true. I hope and pray that someday God will answer that prayer. Age really doesn't matter, it's what's inside that counts. Hope you understand what I'm trying to say. Take care. You know where I'm from. Thinking of you till next time my friend. xoxo.

**I would like to send** best of luck to my sister Naomi Weistche, going to school in Belleville, Ont. I'll be learning sign language too so we will be able to talk to each other. We will have the best conversation we never had before. Like the girl kind of stuff. Love, Norma.

**This is going out to** someone who is in my thoughts everyday and I just wanted you to know that I miss you so much. And I think I'm in love with you all over again. The first time I saw you I felt like I never loved before. I really had enjoyable nights with you. I think that not only are you sweet and a natural man but you make me go boink! Love a friend.

**Kelly Pepabano** from Chisasibi. best of luck at Laurentian University. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the inside info and advice you have given about a certain guy I have been eyeing! I hope to return the favor. I guess your summer memories will be filled with tall, dark and wow! Keep in touch, I will be needing your insight! You're not the nerd you think you are! Remember me with this song: Au Claire de la lune, mon amour...! You know the rest!

**Calling Nancy Bobbish** from Chisasibi. I am so happy for you. I hope you will let us go and enjoy what dropped on to your lap. They can't touch us or prove anything eh! The TBG's will be there to have a back to school bash the only way we know how. We apologize when we are out of it and you are the only sane person around. thank you for reminding us what our manes are and where we live! Good luck at HEC (Still can't pronounce it!)

**Cynthia McKee** from Chisasibi. Hoping your fall semester goes well at Ottawa University. What a summer we had eh! We sure put a lot of mileage on that spoiled brat of yours, along with that wonderful sound system which we tested to the max! Now the residents of the community will be able to sleep in peace now that we will be gone! Meet you at DJ's on 27/08/97 for the Bryan Adams concert. the gang will be there. Live long and party, my cuz.

**Calling our Valdorian friend** Marie-Claude Lameboy. The only nurse to be we know who will take care of us in our time of extreme need.. Thank you for nursing us back to health after those demanding weekends. You were our saviour! Good luck in the final year of nursing at Cegep de L'Abitibi. let go of the past and look to the future, you go girl! Remember: Messenger...messenger!

**Hi to a very close friend** of mine in Chisasibi, Cheryl Bearskin. Hope you're having fun. For me it's kinda boring here without you. I miss you very much. See you soon. Friend always and 4-ever Melanie Gunner (Mistissini) P.S Have fun up there. xoxoxoxoxo1/2.

**Hi to someone special up in** Waskaganish, my brothers Jermain Capississit and Richard (Ricky) Mark. So how's it going so far for you guys? As for me, I'm hanging out cool! Ricky, long time I haven't seen you! You too Jermain! I really miss you guys! Ricky, say hi to Stella for me. Anyways take care! P.S. Give me your address you Nerds. Love always, sister Pamela Capississit. XXOO (Waswanipi.)

**To my buddy** Joshua Iserhoff in Montreal. I wish you the best of luck and of course lots of fun dancing during your first year in college. I'll call you once I get my phone hooked up in North Bay. take care. From friend Lillybelle. Don't spend too much money and time at fast food

restaurants.

**PARENT FINDERS MONTREAL** a non profit organization for adoptees, birth parents and siblings will be holding a meeting THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1997 at the Royal Canadian legion hall, 700 Jenkins, Dorval, Quebec. time: 7:30 p.m. For information call (514) 683-0204, fax: (514) 685-7384.

**Hi to my friends** in Chisasibi, Freddy Neacappo and Raymond Ank. So how are you both doing? As for me I'm doing ok here in Waswanipi. Well hope to see you guys soon. From MO (Waswanipi.)

**Hi to a very special guy in** Waswanipi. His name is Jacob (Ti-Loup) So how are you doing? Me, I could say that I'm okay but I really miss you already. Hope to see you again next summer. From a secret admirer.

**Attention all female Crees**, 16 years and over, residing in Montreal: Are you looking for a new look? A new attitude? A new you? The nineties style that's been hiding behind the same old look you've had for too long? If this is you let us know. We are looking for a volunteer to get a makeover, and we mean a total makeover, for an upcoming "Between Friends" in a future issue of the Nation. Call Deantha or Neil at 514.272.3077 for info.

## COMING UP IN THE NATION

*Diabetes: Are You At Risk?  
Cree@Large!!*

*"Between Friends" make-over.*

*Cree Midget Hockey Does The Limbo.*

*And all the skinny, good, bad and ugly!!*

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Jewish General Hospital,  
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Contact: Dr. Kathryn Gill, Psychiatry Department, Montreal General  
Hospital, 937-6011 x2395

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Cree Nation of Mistissini, Quebec

On behalf of the Mistissini Sports & Recreation Department  
and the Organizing Committee,  
it is our pleasure to officially invite you to participate in:

## **Mistissini's 3rd Invitational Basketball Tournament October 16, 17, 18 & 19, 1997**

We will be giving away over \$14,000.00 in prize  
money and awards to five different categories.  
It will be disbursed as follows:

CATEGORIES	INSCRIPTION FEE	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
Men's Class "A"	\$400.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
Men's Class "B"	\$400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Recreational "C"	\$400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Women	\$400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Mini Boy's (12 & under)	\$200.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Mini Girl's (12 & under)	\$200.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00

*\*All prize amounts are estimates. The amounts are subject to change depending on the number of teams that register. The first teams to register and pay the registration fees will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS. All other teams will be placed on stand-by.*

**\*\*ALL TEAMS MUST SEND THEIR INSCRIPTION FEE  
IN FULL BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE!**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1997**

For more information contact Jean-Baptiste Loon, Robie Petawabano  
or Anthony Macleod at the Recreation Office (418) 923-3461.